

## CLAIMS

1. A microorganism belonging to the genus *Bacillus*, that is capable of reducing nitrates and contains chitin and/or chitosan in its cell walls.
2. The microorganism of claim 1, wherein said microorganism has a smell of coffee.
3. The microorganism of claim 1 or 2, wherein said microorganism belongs to *Bacillus subtilis*.
4. The microorganism of claim 3, wherein said microorganism is *Bacillus subtilis takemi* (FERM BP-6589).
5. A method for improving soil using the microorganism of claim 1.
6. A composition for improving soil comprising the microorganism of claim 1.
7. A method for treating organic waste by fermentation using the microorganism of claim 1.
8. A composition for treating organic waste through fermentation comprising the microorganism of claim 1.
9. A method for fermenting soybeans using the microorganism of claim 1.
10. Soybeans that have been fermented using the microorganism of claim 1.
11. A method of using the microorganism of claim 1 as a feed additive.
12. A feed additive comprising the microorganism of claim 1.
13. A method of using the microorganism of claim 1 for reducing bitterness.
14. A composition for reducing bitterness comprising the microorganism of claim 1.
15. A method of using the microorganism of claim 1 as a food additive.
16. A food additive comprising the microorganism of claim 1.
17. A method for inhibiting bacterial growth using the microorganism of claim 1.
18. An anti-microbial composition comprising the microorganism of claim 1.